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Identical letters dated 15 November 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to our previous letters regarding the involvement of the so-called US-led "international coalition" in Syria in relations and deals with the terrorist organization of "ISIL" in order to secure a safe exit for the fighters of this designated group in different parts of Syria, with all their heavy weapons and equipment, I would like to draw your attention to the news report published and broadcast on 13 November 2017 by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), entitled "Raqqa's Dirty Secret" *

The news report was prepared by a BBC crew on the ground, led by its correspondent, Quentin Sommerville. The report contains details of the "secret deal" that facilitated the escape of hundreds of terrorist fighters, many of them foreigners, with their families and their heavy weapons, out of the city of Raqqa, under the gaze and watchful eye of the international coalition forces led by the United States and the United Kingdom and their proxy militias on the ground, in particular the so-called "Syrian Democratic Forces" that currently occupy the city of Raqqa.

The BBC report presents evidence and live testimonies of truck drivers who transported the most vicious foreign terrorist fighters to get them out of Raqqa city, opening the way for them to either deploy in many Syrian areas or find their way back, through Turkey, to the countries that they came from.

The evidence and testimonies contained in the news report prove what the Syrian Government kept telling the Security Council: that the genuine agenda of the so-called "international coalition", which falsely claims to be fighting "ISIL", is to obstruct and undermine Syrian and Russian military operations against "ISIL" and other terrorist organizations.

The gravity of the information and evidence contained in the news report is that, while broad international efforts are focused on combating the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and countering their return to the countries from which they came into Syria and Iraq, some States members of this "international coalition" are still engaging in suspicious deals with the most violent and extremist foreign terrorist fighters, to grant them safe haven and freedom of movement between Syria

* Available from http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/raqqas_dirty_secret

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and Iraq and to open roads for them to return and spread terrorism and criminality in every city and region that they can reach.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic strongly believes that it is time for the Security Council to demonstrate its seriousness in implementing its counter-terrorism resolutions, particularly those issued under Chapter VII. For this purpose, the Syrian Government requests that the news report be seriously examined by the Security Council and its counter-terrorism committees, in order to assess the practices of the Governments that participated in this illegal "international coalition", taking into consideration that those practices violate Security Council resolutions relating to combating terrorism, in particular resolution 2368 (2017).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative